

ABSTRACT

An animation tool is used for debugging electronic templates (e.g. for a Web page) containing embedded commands. The tool renders the template, up to a specified step number, to produce a partial output. The partial output includes items subsequent to the specified step number (e.g. HTML end tags), to ensure that the partial output is well-formed. The tool parses the template to generate a parse tree having a branch at each tag for which there is a corresponding end tag. It then truncates the parse tree to remove parts subsequent to the specified step number, and forms the partial output from the truncated parse tree.